

Recently, again, according to the Times, agents stopped a vehicle in Douglas, Arizona, and drug traffickers on the Mexican side of the border laid down suppressive gunfire to pin the U.S. border agents down, which allowed the smugglers to retreat to the Mexican side of the border with their drugs intact.

The Tucson sector alone reports about 25 assaults a month on border patrol agents.

□ 1945

Madam Speaker, there seems to be an all-out border war between the drug cartels and the Mexican-U.S. law enforcement personnel. But not much is being said about this border war.

Madam Speaker, this border war is real. Our government should protect our Nation from these gun-toting drug smugglers. Our border protectors should be given enough personnel and equipment to fight these violent cartels, including being able to use the National Guard. Our border protectors should also know that our government will support them in their lawful protection of our border, and when a violent conflict occurs, be more concerned about our border protectors than the outlaw drug smugglers.

In other words, we must not let more agents suffer an unjust fate like Border Agents Ramos and Compean, who were persecuted and prosecuted for political reasons for shooting a drug smuggler they believed to be armed.

The violence on the border will continue to grow unless the likes of Joaquin "El Chapa"—"Shorty"—Guzman and his border bandits know the United States will not go away into the darkness of the desert night and simply surrender our border to them by silently doing nothing to prevent their unlawful invasion into the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

AMERICA'S TRADE DEFICIT IS AGAIN ON THE RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today the United States announced that America's trade deficit is back on the rise. The 2008 annual trade deficit topped \$677 billion. That is three-quarters of \$1 trillion, knocking several points off of economic growth in our country, and yet in response to today's announcement of the growing deficit, U.S. Trade Representative KIRK said we need to work more on new and pending free trade agreements. But trade agreements based on the NAFTA job outsourcing model are what helped get us into this mess of rising unemployment and heavy borrowing in the first place.

Take Mexico, for example, which is the red on this chart. When NAFTA was signed back in 1993, the United States had a trade surplus with Mexico of \$1.3 billion. But in 2008, our deficit

with that country had surged to more than \$367 billion. This year, in only 3 months, we have already seen a \$9.7 billion deficit with Mexico.

Indeed, in every single year of NAFTA since 1993, more imports have come in here from Mexico than our exports there. The biggest U.S. export to Mexico has actually been our jobs. Good jobs.

In an article published in 1993 in Fortune Magazine, the self-proclaimed economic geniuses who urged NAFTA's passage, including Gary Hufbauer and economist Jeffrey Schott, said at that time that if that treaty passed, the United States would maintain, and I quote them, "an annual current account surplus with Mexico of about \$10 billion throughout the 1990s." Boy, were they wrong. Could they have been more wrong? Dead wrong. Consistently wrong.

Since NAFTA was enacted, the United States has accumulated more than \$1.2 trillion in trade deficits to both Mexico and Canada. The orange is the Canadian deficit. And this means lost jobs in our country and lost income to both Mexico and Canada. That \$1.2 trillion of lost wealth in this country could pay for better health care. It could pay for better roads and bridges. It could pay for a better-protected soldier abroad and for police forces here at home. But instead, we shift these dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs across our borders every single year leaving our home communities devastated and costing our taxpayers ever more.

People ask: Why is President Obama spending money to try to re-engage our economy? And the answer is: What other choice does he have? Doing nothing in an economy with double-digit unemployment numbers is absolutely cruel. At a time when our home districts are straining to make ends meet, millions of people are facing foreclosure and pink slips are coming day after day, why would we want to send more of our jobs and dollars abroad working on new, and I quote the trade ambassador, "new and pending free trade agreements," as Ambassador Kirk suggests, instead of focusing our time and energy on remedying the broken banking and economic system of our country? We have to fix that. We have to fix the foreclosure crisis. And we have to create well-paying jobs right here in our own neighborhoods rather than weakening America further by shipping out more jobs and wealth abroad.

Congress needs to stop making it easier for U.S. jobs to go to these far-flung, slave-wage havens, as in China, in Mexico, and in Panama. And by the way, countries like Panama are corporate tax havens as well.

We need banking reform. We need help for homeowners. We need modern infrastructure, and we need lots more good jobs right here at home. Ambassador Kirk, won't you join us in the fight for America's economic pros-

perity? Why send more of our jobs away from our communities that need them most, particularly when you are staring in the face of reality, which is \$1.3 trillion of trade deficit since NAFTA's inception, both with Mexico and with Canada, and not a single year in the black? Invest in the United States. We can leave Panama and Mexico to another day. It is time to reclaim our wealth and bring it back home where it belongs.

I think the American people intuitively know something is really wrong, and they are trying to figure out why all this has happened. And I would say to some of the very institutions on Wall Street that have caused the deep harm to this economy, you are the very institutions that have helped to finance the outsourcing of these jobs.

H.R. 1701, THE PTSD/TBI GUARAN- TEED REVIEW FOR HEROES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, almost 2 million American servicemembers have served our Nation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Unfortunately, many are returning home with symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries. An April 2008 study by the RAND Corporation found that nearly 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans had symptoms of PTSD or major depression.

The study also found that many servicemembers do not seek treatment for psychological illnesses because they fear it will harm their careers. Of those who do seek help for PTSD or major depression, only about half receive treatment that researchers consider minimally adequate for their illness. If our government and the military fail to address problems associated with PTSD, the situation will only grow worse in future years.

Tragically, the worst cases can result in a servicemember causing harm to themselves or others. Most recently, a United States Army sergeant who had done at least three tours in Iraq had been charged with murdering five of his fellow servicemembers at Camp Liberty in Baghdad. A defense official confirmed that the sergeant had been a patient at the stress treatment center where the shooting occurred. When some servicemembers suffering from PTSD or TBI are not properly treated, they end up self-medicating or experiencing other changes in behavior. This can lead to serious legal issues and a threat of separation from their service without benefits or treatment.

One marine stationed at Camp Lejeune, in my district, fell victim to this problem and has been pending involuntary administrative separation due to misconduct. His fitness report shows that he was an outstanding marine prior to his deployments. His medical board report states, and I quote